

INSTRUCTIONS
FOR THE
ARMED ASSOCIATION
OF THE
PERCY TENANTRY
INFANTRY.

1798.



231. c. 77.

INSTRUCTIONS

FOR THE

UNITED ASSOCIATION

OF THE

PEACE OFFICERS

IN THE

1908

AS it would be impossible to collect the whole of this Corps together, without the greatest inconvenience to the Individuals who compose it, so as to be able to instruct them properly how to act as one solid and compact body; it is proposed to train them to act as Rangers or Marksmen; who, by continually harraffing the Enemy in his Front, on his Flanks, and in his Rear; attacking his Detachments, Convoys, and Line of Communication, (for all which purposes their local knowledge of the Country particularly qualifies them) they may, if properly conducted, with very little risque to themselves, occasion a great and material Loss to the Enemy, and perhaps totally prevent him from being able to penetrate into the Country.

With this View the following Instructions have been drawn up.

As it would be impossible to collect the whole of this Corps together without the greatest inconvenience to the Individuals who compose it, so as to be able to instruct them properly how to act as one solid and compact body; it is proposed to train them to act as Rangers or Marksmen; who, by constantly pursuing the Enemy in his Flank, on the Flank, and in his Rear, attacking his Detachments, Caravans, and Lines of Communication, for all which purposes they local knowledge of the Country particularly qualifies them; they may if properly conducted, with very little regard to themselves, occasion a great and material loss to the Enemy, and perhaps totally prevent him from being able to penetrate into the Country.

With this View the following Instructions have been drawn up.

General Rules.

IN forming the Line of March the Men are always to be in two Files, without any regard to the Man who was in the Front or Rear, or on the right or left of them when in Line; and the Files are to be 3 or 4 Paces asunder with their arms as most convenient to them, when near an Enemy, Trailing, either in the right or left hand, and they must be perfectly silent.

There should always be an Advanced Guard, Rear Guard, Flankers, and a Reserve.

They are to march without looking at the Ground, but always before, or to the right and left of them.

When Marching by Files and ordered to halt, they must never Croud, but halt at the same distance of 3 or 4 Paces as they marched, and they should always take Possession of a rising Ground or Hill if near it; they are never to quit their Arms but when ordered; and Centries

should always be posted to see up and down the Road, or at some distance from the Party.

In forming, they are always to form on the outside of the Man whom they find formed already, at 3 or 4 Paces asunder, or as far asunder as to see the Motions of the Right and Left hand Man, and cover themselves by a Tree, Stump, Dyke, Hedgerow, Stone, Brushwood, or Rising Ground, either Standing, Kneeling, Bending, or when there is no Cover, laying flat with their Bellies to the Ground.

When near an Enemy, always, if possible, form out of his Sight, and then advance in Line.

When a Cover is not easily found, there may be as many together as the Place of Cover will allow, only when Skirmishing or Covering the Retreat, but never when advancing upon the Enemy, as by extending yourself when driving them or pursuing them, it will always make the Enemy think the Number greater than it really is, and the Enemy's random Shot will do less execution.

Never march along the high Road when intending to surprise an Enemy.

Flankers,

Flankers,

Are to march abreast, and at such a distance from each other, when in Woods, or amongst Hedges, as they may be able to see one another, and the Flanker nearest the Main Body is never to lose sight of it—They are carefully to examine all around them, so that no Party of the Enemy should remain between them and the Main Body—When in a Plain the outmost Flanker, if there is a Rising Ground, must pass over it, though it should be two Musquet Shot off. Should the Flankers discover the Enemy, without being perceived by him, they must conceal themselves as much as possible, send immediate intelligence to the Main Body, and acquaint the Commanding Officer which way the Enemy is marching, whether formed, or laying on their Arms, their Number, and Situation, keeping a constant Eye on the Enemy at the same time, and they should not on any Account fire a Shot; but if they imagine the Enemy has observed them they are then to fire; it is the quickest Intelligence they can give—If the Flankers when the Line is formed, find they extend beyond the Enemies

Flanks, they must then endeavour to surround them, and, if possible, attack them in the Rear. When a Retreat is ordered, they are to retire with the Flank they covered.—Sometimes they may be called in for fear of being discovered, in which case they are to march in the Rear of the Commanding Officer till ordered to their Post again.

The Advance Guard,

Is to march in an Indian File along a Path or Road, or led by a Guide. They are to look about them, and often back, are always to keep in Sight of one another, and the nearest to the Main Body in sight of it; and when they meet with a difficult Pass, they must let the Main Body know it, by sending back one Man; the rest Reconnoitre it and report what they perceive, they must then form, and remain there till ordered to proceed. When they discover an Enemy, they are to proceed in the same way as the Flankers. If they are discovered, or fall in with the Enemy unawares, they are to fire on them, and keep them off as long as possible; but if they beat them, as
it

it probably is the Enemy's Advanced Guard, they must proceed to the Main Body of the Enemy, and fire till their own Main Body comes up. Whenever, from the Situation and Nature of the Ground, they suspect an Ambush, they must halt; Reconnoitre it thoroughly, and report their observations to the Main Body.

When the Main Body forms to the Right, the Advance Guard covers their left Flank; when the Main Body forms the Line of March to the Right, they become the Left Flankers. When the Main Body forms to the Left, or takes the Line of March that way, they become the Right Flankers. When it forms or marches to the Rear, they become the Rear Guard.

The Rear Guard,

Is to March in an Indian File never out of sight of one another, and the nearest Man to the Main Body, not out of Sight of it, look often back; and when the Main Body forms to the Right or Left, they cover the Right or Left Flank, and in marching to the Right or Left,
flank

flank them. When they discover an Enemy following them, they must form, fire upon them, and keep them off as long as possible, then retire to the Commanding Officer, and report what they have seen; when the Party forms to the front, they cover the Rear at 60 or 100 Yards distance, facing outwards, and extend as far as the Line, or within fight of one another, and when other Troops march in their Rear they must give Notice to their Party if the Column behind them halts; and the Column following them may judge by them what Place to keep, so as not to advance too fast.

The Reserve,

Is to march in two Files behind the Column; when formed they draw up behind the Commanding Officer, so as to be within call; endeavour to cover themselves, and must be ready to march where ordered; either to outflank or fire on the Rear of the Enemy; they are to support any part of the Line that is hard pressed; or cover the Retreat by marching to the Wing most in danger; during this time the other Wing is to fall back, and form
behind

behind them, letting the Retreating Wing pass through them; they are then to fire upon the advancing Enemy, and Retreat in their turn beyond the Wing that first retreated; they are then to halt, and the two Wings are thus to cover each other's Retreat by turns.

Manœuvres.

*Words of
Command.*

*To the Front
form.*

The Officer Commanding the Company stands still, the leading Men of the two Files go 10 or 12 Paces, one to the Right, and the other as many to the Left, and stand facing to the front: the other Men in each File follow them, then pass behind them, and form as directed in the General Rules.

*Form the line
of March.*

They are to pay no regard in forming the Line of March, in which file they go, provided only they form two Files, neither is it necessary

{ cessary that the Man who led either of the two files should lead it again, he may be in the Center or the Rear; as the Officer who Commands may form the Line of March from any part he chuses.

*To the Right
form.*

{ The Right hand File faces to the Right, and halts; the left hand File marches forward, and forms to the left of the right hand File, now become the Right Wing; leaving as much room as is necessary for the Right Flankers to form between the two Wings.

*Form the line
of March.*

{ As before mentioned.

*To the Left
form.*

{ The left hand File faces to the left, and halts; the Right hand File marches forward, and forms the Right Wing, leaving room for the Left Flankers to form between the two wings.

*Form the line
of March.*

{ As before mentioned.

The

*To the Rear
form.*

{ The whole form to the front as before mentioned, and go the right-about, leaving room for the Rear Guard to form between them, through which opening the reserve runs, and forms in the Rear, as above directed. Or the whole (Reserve excepted) go to the right-about, run to the Rear of the Reserve, who stand fast, and form as directed to the front, leaving Room for the Rear Guard to form between the two Wings.

*Form the line
of March.*

} As before mentioned.

*Form the In-
dian File.*

{ The Men of the Left hand File step to the Right, and each Man covers his Right hand Man, keeping $\frac{1}{2}$ distance.

*Form two
Files.*

{ The Men of the Left hand File step to the Left, as they were before they formed the Indian File.

Sometimes

*Right or Left
hand File to
the Front
form.*

Sometimes Marching and having a River, Swamp, or any other Impediment, on one of the Flanks, the Right or Left hand File only can form; which it does in the usual way.

*Right or Left
hand File
form the Left
or Rt. Wing.*

The File which was prevented by the Obstacle from forming the Line, passes behind the other after it is formed, and forms upon it's Flank.

Forwards.

Oftentimes, in a Close Country, it is necessary, after being formed in Line, to march forwards, either to take possession of an advantageous Ground, or to pursue the Enemy, or after going to the right about, to take possession of an advantageous Ground behind or in covering the retreat.

*Prime and
Load.*

They Prime and Load, Marching or Running.

*Right or Left
Wing, or one
or two Com-
panies Cover
the Retreat.*

In Retreating the Wing or Company which is hard pressed is reinforced by the Reserve, or another Company, and the other Wing or Company runs, and forms behind them, at the distance of 50 or 100 Yards according to the Ground, covering or hiding themselves in the best way they can; then the pressed Wing is ordered to retire, who run through those formed behind them, and forms, loading, if possible, as they run, or after they are formed; and wait till those in their front pass through them, then fire at the pursuing Enemy, and thus the two Wings proceed in covering each other in their turn.

*Form the line
of March.*

} As before mentioned.

{ The Men double up to the Right and Left of the two File Leaders as directed for forming

Form the Column for Street Firing.

forming to the front, only they keep their Files close, and fill the Street, leaving just room enough for a Man to pass down on each Side. Those in the Rear of the Line of March, let there be ever so many Companies, double up in the same way behind those already formed, and close up to the Front, making as many Ranks as the width of the Street occasions.

Fire—Street Firing.

They fire by Ranks, each Rank moving off from its two Flanks, and going to the Rear to load.

N. B. This Manœuvre of forming the Column is necessary in forcing a Bridge, or driving an Enemy out of an hollow Road—only, that generally in all these Cases, it is better to fill up the Space entirely, and charge with your Bayonets instead of firing.

Form the line of March.

As before mentioned, only here being in such a Number of Ranks, each Rank must file off, after the One in its Front.

The

*Form Four
Files.*

{ The rear half, of each of the two Files, in the Line of March, double up on the outward Flank of the Front Files.

*To the Right
and Left dou-
ble up and
form the Line
two deep.*

{ Each Man in the two outward Files, doubles up to the Right and Left of their File Leaders, and the Men in the innermost Files double up to the Right and Left behind them, thus forming the Company, or Line, two deep.

N. B. After the Men are perfect in the above Manœuvres, they are taught to form by Signals, without a Word of Command.

All Bodies of Men exceeding twenty in Number are, *on the Parade*, to form two deep, in order not to take up too much room, and their Files about six inches distant from each other. As soon as they begin to form their Line of March, they will gain their proper distances as mentioned before. In all firings (except Street Firing, which is to be by Ranks) each Man is to fire separately, and perfectly independent of the rest, taking great care that he has

B

good

good aim before he pulls the Trigger, and is never to fire but when he thinks himself sure of hitting the object he fires at.

In forming, no straight Lines are observed, but all the advantages the Ground will allow, are taken to cover the Men, and command the Ground they are formed upon. When arrived at the Foot of a Hill, they form to the Front, and march up in Line, in order to prevent being enfiladed; which would happen if they marched up in Files; and to be ready for Action either half way up the Hill, or when arrived at the Summit.

When formed in Line they are to be very attentive to the Signals given them; whether to advance, fall back, gain ground to the Right or Left, or assemble to defend a Pass, or Defile. They must remember to avail themselves of every tree, and place of Strength, and keep at a proper distance from one another; They must not advance to pursue a Retiring Enemy too much out of the Line, lest they should be cut off from their own Party, nor must they abandon their Comrades who may be warmly engaged, by retreating too hastily from them. In short this Method of Fighting,
though

though it seems irregular, nevertheless, requires great attention, and will answer no purpose unless carried on with a kind of Order. It is a principal Rule in this Mode of Fighting always, if possible, to gain the Enemy's Flanks, and Rear, and endeavour to surround him.



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 of writing, always, it follows, to gain the
 Reader's Favour, and clear, and easy
 to himself.



